

Message Text

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61

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 AID-05 NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 /086 W

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R 271650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6420

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO U J

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

UNCLAS MEXICO 1759

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: NEW MEXICAN IMPORT DUTIES

REF: (A) STATE 017135; (B) STATE 22368; (C) MEXICO 1520

1. EMBASSY IN CONTINUING COMMUNICATION WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS SECRETARIAT AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK (SEE MEXICO 1538) CONCERNING NEW DUTIES AS THEY AFFECT LIVESTOCK. POUCHING DEPARTMENT AND USDA COPY FEB. 25 LETTER THIS REGARD TO DIR. GEN. INTL. AFFAIRS RAMOS CANTORAL.

2. ALSO, EMBASSY ECON COUN AND ECON OFF CALLED ON SENIOR TREASURY OFFICIAL (HECTOR HERNANDEZ DIR GEN INTL AFFAIRS) ON FEB. 25, AND DURING COURSE CONVERSATION RAISED ISSUE NEW IMPORT DUTIES ON LIVESTOCK, HERNANDEZ WAS MOST FORTHCOMING ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUE, AND PROMISED TO LOOK FURTHER INTO MATTER, POINTING OUT

THAT MEXICANS HAVE RESCINDED DAIRY CATTLE IMPORT DUTY (MEXICO 1520). HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COPY LETTER TO RAMOS CANTORAL WHICH EMBOFFS PROVIDED HIM. EMB OFFS HAVE ARRANGED A FURTHER MEETING WITH HERNANDEZ FOR MARCH 7 AND WILL RAISE ISSUE AGAIN IF IT STILL UNRESOLVED. WE ALSO PLAN RAISE GENERAL ISSUE ALL NEW IMPORT DUTIES WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.

3. LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS HELD SEMINAR ON NEW TARIFF LAST WEEK, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY EMB OFF. ACCORDING TO GOM OFFICIALS AT SEMINAR (INCLUDING LUIS BRAVO AGUILERA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TREASURY) NEW TARIFF NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS INSTRUMENT FOR PROTECTION LOCAL INDUSTRY. PROTECTION WILL HENCEFORTH BE EXCLUSIVELY THE FUNCTION OF TRADITIONAL IMPORT PERMIT SYSTEM ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. RATHER, NEW TARIFF INTENDED TO CONSOLIDATE TARIFF CALSSIFICATIONS (REDUCED FROM OVER ELEVEN THOUSAND TO OVER SEVEN THOUSAND) AND TO MAKE DUTIES ADHERE TO ORGANIZED STRUCTURE, REFLECTING DEGREE OF ELABORATION, NOT PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

4. DUTIES FORMERLY VARIED WIDELY, ACCORDING TO WHETHER PRODUCT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO LOCAL INDUSTRY, OR COMPETITIVE. FOR TARIFF PURPOSES, IMPORTED PRODUCTS NOW GROUPED AND SUBJECT TO SET RANGE OF DUTIES WITHIN EACH GROUP, AS FOLLOWS: RAW MATERIALS, 5-15 O/O AND VALOREM; MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT 20 O/OV NON-LUXURY GOODS, 35 O/O; LUXURY GOODS 50-75 O/O. ASSEMBLED AUTOMOBILES ARE EXCEPTION TO GROUPING AND SUBJECT TO 100 O/O. SINCE MANY PRODUCTS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY WERE TAXED AT RATES OVER 100 O/O IN PREVIOUS TARIFF, SOME REDUCTION MAY BE REFLECTED. ON OTHER HAND, OVERALL EFFECT UNCEAR SINCE ONE SPEAKER STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF PRODUCT CLASSIFICATIONS

IN NEW TARIFF REMAINED AT SAME DUTY LEVEL AS IN OLD TARIFF, ONE-THIRD SUBJECTED TO INCREASES, AND ONE-THIRD TO DECREASES.

5. TO SUBSTANTIATE CLAIMS THAT NEW DUTIES COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH THOSE IN FORCE IN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOME INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, ONE SPEAKER REPORTED EIGHTY PERCENT OF TOAL CLASSIFICATIONS HAVE DUTIES IN 0-35 O/O RANGE, SEVENTY PERCENT HAVE DUTIES IN 0-20 O/O RANGE, AND ONLY TWELVE PERCENT HAVE DUTIES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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50-75 O/O RANGE.

6. FURTHER REPORT IS BEING PREPARED GIVING DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SEMINAR, AND FORWARDING PAGES FROM PREVIOUS TARIFF COVERING AREAS OF INTEREST TO U.S., TOGETHER WITH NEW DUTIES FOR COMPARISON.
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